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cont
mean strain of 21.8% at 500g, a mean strain of 40.4% at 1000g,
and a mean strain of 47.7% at 1400g.

Please amend page 38, first paragraph, to read as follows:

as-
The above test results are derived from a diaper 1 wherein the absorbent core 3 is affixed to the chassis 2. The above test results indicate that as the percent ratio of the surface area 35 of the back one-half portion 105 of the absorbent core 3 to the corresponding surface area 45 of the back one-half portion 101 of the stretchable chassis 2 decreases, the stretchability of the chassis 2 increases. For example, the mean percentage strains at 500g, at 1000g, and at 1400g significantly increase when the ratio of the surface area 35 of the back one-half portion 105 of the absorbent core 3 to the corresponding surface area 45 of the stretchable back one-half portion 101 of the chassis 2 is at 16% than when at 29%. Accordingly, a reduction in the size of the absorbent core 3 increases the corresponding surface area 45 in the back one-half portion 101 of the stretchable chassis 2 that is uninhibited by the attachment points of the absorbent core 3 allowing enhanced stretchability of the stretchable chassis 2 therein reducing the cost and complexity of manufacturing the diaper 1 of the present invention and improving the appearance, fit and leakage containment for the wearer.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-68 without prejudice to the patentability of the claims.

Please add the following new claims:

69. A disposable absorbent article comprising:
a liner adapted for contiguous relationship with the
wearer's body;

an outer cover in generally opposed relationship with the
5 liner, said article having a surface area defined at least in
part by at least one of said liner and said outer cover; and

an absorbent core disposed between the liner and the outer
cover and having a surface area which is less than or equal to
about 50% of the surface area of said article.

Sub 13 70. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim
69 wherein said article is a diaper.

71. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim
69, wherein the surface area defined by the absorbent core is
less than or equal to about 40% of the surface area of said
article.

72. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim
69 wherein the surface area defined by the absorbent core is
less than or equal to about 30% of the surface area of said
article.

73. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim
69 wherein the liner is stretchable in at least one direction.

74. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim
73 wherein the outer cover is stretchable in said at least one
direction.

75. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 69, wherein the liner is stretchable generally laterally of said article.

76. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner is stretchable generally longitudinally and laterally of said article.

77. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner is extensible generally laterally of said article.

78. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending laterally of said article, said liner being capable of lateral elongation of about 20 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

79. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending laterally of said article, said liner being capable of lateral elongation of about 25 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

80. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending laterally of said article, said liner being capable of substantially permanent elongation laterally of said article whereby the width of said liner is increased at least about 10 percent when the article

is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

96/cont
5 81. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending laterally of said article, said liner being capable of substantially permanent elongation laterally of said article whereby the width of said liner is increased at least about 20 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

82. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 73 wherein the liner is generally elastic in said at least one direction.

83. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 69, wherein the outer cover is stretchable generally laterally of said article.

5 84. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover has a width extending laterally of said article, said outer cover being capable of lateral elongation of about 10 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

85. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover has a width extending laterally of said article, said outer cover being capable of lateral elongation of about 20 percent when the article is subjected to

5 a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch
(per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

86. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim
83 wherein the outer cover has a width extending laterally of
said article, said outer cover being capable of lateral
elongation of about 30 percent when the article is subjected to
5 a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch
(per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

87. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim
83 wherein the outer cover has a width extending laterally of
said article, said outer cover being capable of lateral
elongation of about 40 percent when the article is subjected to
5 a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch
(per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

~~88~~
87. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim
83 wherein the outer cover has a width extending laterally of
said article, said outer cover being capable of substantially
permanent elongation laterally of said article whereby the
5 width of said outer cover is increased at least about 17
percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed
tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width
of said outer cover.

~~89~~
88. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim
83 wherein the outer cover has a width extending laterally of
said article, said outer cover being capable of substantially
permanent elongation laterally of said article whereby the
5 width of said outer cover is increased at least about 30

percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said article.

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90. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover comprises a necked laminate having at least one layer of a non-elastic neckable material and at least one layer of a non-elastic film.

91
91. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83, wherein the outer cover is elastic.

92
92. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 91, wherein the outer cover is elastic at least laterally of the article.

93
93. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 91 wherein the outer cover comprises a polypropylene spunbond laminated with styrene-isoprene-styrene-based adhesive.

94
94. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 69 wherein the absorbent core is secured to at least one of said liner and said outer cover.

95
95. A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal axis and a lateral axis generally defining longitudinal front and back halves of the article, said article comprising:

a liner adapted for contiguous relationship with the
5 wearer's body;

an outer cover in generally opposed relationship with the liner, the back half of the article having a surface defined at

least in part by at least one of said liner and said outer cover; and

- 10 an absorbent core disposed between the liner and the outer cover, at least a portion of said absorbent core extending within the back half of said article, said portion of the absorbent core having a surface area which is less than or equal to about 50% of the surface area of the back half of said
- 15 article.

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96 96. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 95 wherein said article is a diaper.

97
97 97. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 95, wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 40% of the surface area of the back half of said article.

98
98 98. A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 95 wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 30% of the surface area of the back half of said article.

99
99 99. A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal axis and a lateral axis generally defining longitudinal front and back halves of the article, said article comprising:

a liner adapted for contiguous relationship with the

5 wearer's body;

an outer cover in generally opposed relationship with the liner, the front half of said article having a surface area defined at least in part by at least one of the liner and the outer cover; and